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A/W/m  
3/30/04

Attorney Docket No.: FUSA 17.732 (100807-16875)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: SATORU KOMATSU, et al.

Confirmation No.: 6178

Serial No.: 09/660,226

Filed: September 12, 2000

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING ...

Examiner: CHRISTOPHER M. SWICKHAMER.

Group Art Unit: 2662

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 25 2004**

**Technology Center 2600**

March 22, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Applicant hereby petitions for a one-month extension of time, a petition pursuant to 37

C.F.R. 1.136(a) and authorization to charge the requisite fee being enclosed.

In response to the Office Action dated November 21, 1999, please amend the subject application as follows:

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Filed by Express Mail  
Receipt No. EL97903460945  
on 3-22-2004  
pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10.  
by Frances Boye